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C. Br: 11/16/01 2853
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
HIROKI HAYASHI, et al.)
:) Group Art Unit: 2853
Application No.: 09/726,021)
:)
Filed: November 30, 2000)
:)
For: SURFACE REFORMED FIBER BODY,)
LIQUID CONTAINER USING FIBER :)
ABSORBER AND METHOD OF :)
PRODUCING FIBER ABSORBER FOR :)
USE IN LIQUID EJECTION) October 25, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,742,311
U.S. Patent No. 5,509,140
U.S. Patent No. 6,179,416

Applicants also direct the Examiner's attention to the following U.S. patent applications which have been commonly assigned with this application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/726,025, filed November 30, 2000;
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/546,910, filed April 10, 2000; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/536,127, filed March 28, 2000.

A copy of the specification and drawings for each application is also enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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